



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT K. MORRIS  
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
LANSING

**October 22, 2010**

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

Meeting held at the Michigan State Police Training Academy

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Morris, Chair  
Michael Prince  
Anne Corgan  
Steven Puuri  
Sheriff Al Byam  
Capt. Monica Yesh  
John Friend  
Chief David Stamm  
Kenneth Micklash  
Lauren Swanson

**REPRESENTING**

Office of the Governor  
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)  
Department of State (MDOS)  
Local Representative  
Local Representative  
Department of State Police (MSP)  
Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Local Representative  
Department of Education (MDOE)  
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)

**STAFF**

Deb Sonnenberg

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Linda Scarpetta

Department of Community Health (MDCH)

**GUESTS**

Sandy Lidel  
Dave Morena  
Pat Muinch  
Lisa Grost  
Carol Reagan  
Jason Gutting  
Bob Felt  
Angie Kremer  
Mark Bott  
Kim Lariviere  
Kathy Farnum  
Anne Readett  
Alicia Sledge  
Dianne Perukel  
Gary Bubar  
Kay Shabazz  
Bryan Chapman  
Lawrence Hummel

**REPRESENTING**

Financial & Insurance Regulation  
FHWA  
FMCSA  
MDCH  
MDOS  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
Public Sector  
ROARR  
ROARR  
Van Buren Co. Road Commission

• Robert K. Morris, Chair, Governor's Office • Anne Corgan, Department of State • Michael L. Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning  
• John C. Friend, Department of Transportation • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Community Health • Kenneth Micklash, Department of Education  
• Capt. Monica Yesh, Department of State Police • Lauren A. Swanson, Office of Services to the Aging  
• Steven M. Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

The GTSAC meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Morris at 8:40 a.m.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the newest Commissioner, Ms. Lauren Swanson, from the Office of Services to the Aging. Ms. Swanson was appointed October 7, 2010, by Ms. Sharon Gire, OSA Director, as her representative on the Commission succeeding Ms. Pamela Webb who is retiring from state service.

**ROLL CALL**

A Roll Call of the Commissioners was completed determining a quorum was present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Morris called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2010, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Sheriff Byam and supported by Mr. Puuri. ***Motion carried.***

**STANDING REPORTS**

- **Chair's Report – Mr. Robert Morris**

Mr. Morris announced that the Governor has reappointed Commissioner Sheriff Al Byam to a term expiring May 27, 2013, and Commissioner Mr. Steve Puuri to a term expiring on May 27, 2012.

Due to the Governor's Early Retirement Incentive, Mr. Morris expects we will see many new faces in and around state government.

- **Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Monica Yesh**

Operation Care – This safety campaign takes place Wednesday through Friday over the Thanksgiving Holiday to aggressively promote driver safety that week.

Impeding Traffic Citations – Captain Yesh was contacted by Senator Basham from the Taylor area, with concerns about some police departments writing traffic citations for Impeding Traffic, instead of what initiated the traffic stop such as speeding, in an attempt to increase revenue,. Impeding Traffic is a fine-only citation that doesn't get reported to the Secretary of State since no points are incurred on a driver's record, nor does it get reported to insurance companies to enable proper assessment of rates. The premise behind writing citations is to change driver behavior, not generate revenue or provide a means for people to keep their insurance rates low or driving record clear. An Impeding Traffic citation does nothing to change driver behavior. Senator Basham intends to address this issue in the legislature and hopefully get some momentum going to prohibit this type of citation writing.

Energy Drinks Containing Alcohol – The Liquor Control Commission contacted MSP and OHSP alerting them to energy drinks containing alcohol being sold to minors, the amount of alcohol in some of the energy drinks, and that the packaging is very similar to the non-alcohol energy drinks which could be sold to minors unknowingly and un-noticed. The Liquor Control Commission is taking action to combat this problem, including getting the packaging changed to make it easier for law enforcement to identify.

Trooper and Motor Carrier Officer Recruit Schools - MSP received grant funding to hire 21 troopers and is working on additional funding to increase that number. A Trooper Recruit School is planned for January 2011. Funding has also been approved to hire 25 motor carrier officers. A Motor Carrier Officer Recruit School is planned for July 2011.

Motor Carrier Officer Authority - Legislation will soon be introduced (SB-1435) that will give motor carrier officers authority to enforce passenger vehicle violations and investigate accidents. Their mission will remain enforcement of commercial vehicles; however, this action will give them another tool in case it is needed, and also maximizes MSP's enforcement resources.

School Bus Inspection Program – The school bus inspection budget was reduced from \$1.4 million to \$421,000. Attrition over the past few years has left only five vehicle inspectors to perform the legislatively-mandated annual school bus safety inspections. The inspectors are being strategically assigned around the state to maximize their ability to conduct the inspections and will be given a priority list beginning with schools having a history of the most issues moving down to those with 100 percent compliance rates. The legislation to change the language of the law to accommodate random inspections and other options remains before the Legislature.

- **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

Police chiefs are very concerned about the decreased levels of law enforcement officers throughout the state and its impact on enforcement and traffic safety. Future budget and revenue projections appear to only exasperate the situation.

The process of determining the proper speed limit for a roadway continues to be an issue of concern and confusion to some of the police chiefs and municipalities throughout the state. A meeting is being scheduled with the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) Traffic Safety Committee and others to educate and gain understanding of the process and premise of determining realistic speed limits.

Chief Stamm complimented the OHSP staff and Mr. Ken Stecker of PAAM for their work to establish the national Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program and the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program in Michigan. These programs increase an officer's ability to observe, identify, and articulate the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol or a combination of both.

Chief Stamm acknowledged Sgt. Michael Church, MSP Traffic Safety Division, for providing information on legislation and traffic safety on the MACP Web site for law enforcement and others across the state.

- **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**

Calhoun County Oil Spill - Sheriff Byam discussed the impact the increased traffic has had on the area since the oil spill occurred in Calhoun County. Much of the traffic has been unique vehicle combinations like large air boats behind a variety of truck combinations and heavy equipment with huge loads. Sheriff Byam credited the success of the incident management to the efforts and cooperation of the inter-agencies that addressed traffic control to ensure traffic safety.

Car Deer Crashes – The Car Dear Crash Coalition is very active again this year, producing materials and videos and distributing them to inform the public on deer crash safety.

- **Local Representation – Mr. Steven Puuri (CRAM)**

County road commissions are converting equipment over for winter maintenance. The Washtenaw County Road Commission received good news that the contracted salt price this year decreased by six percent from last year. The three new roundabouts in Washtenaw County are operational and the early reviews show that they are working well and that people are becoming accustomed to them.

- **Department of Community Health (MDCH) – Ms. Linda Scarpetta**

Absent

- **Department of Education (MDOE) – Mr. Kenneth Micklash**

On June 22, 2010, the Governor signed a bill adopting the federal medical requirements for school bus drivers and also an exemption procedure for diabetics to get a Michigan certificate. This action significantly updates the previous standards from the mid 1970s. The process is in place and is being well-received throughout the state.

This summer, approximately 800 supervisors of school bus operations completed the school safety training program which is by statute, mandatory every two years. Currently, approximately 20,000 school bus drivers are going through a continuing education program.

Mr. Micklash acknowledged the efforts of OHSP for providing the special needs Student Emergency Information packets. On October 14, the packets were unveiled at the Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation Workshop held in Mt. Pleasant and will be distributed to schools throughout the state.

The school bus inspection issue continues to be a large concern of the pupil transportation industry. This will be a major issue for schools when their Annual Reviews are due unless there is action taken to change the annual bus inspection requirement.

Michigan was well-represented at the National Congress in School Transportation. The Congress meets only every five years to adopt school bus regulations, operations, etc., that states can adopt at the state and local school district levels. In 1939, one of the first recommendations the Congress presented to the pupil transportation industry, was to have school buses be yellow and black. Ultimately, in the late 1950s early 1960s, this color standard was adopted in all states.

- **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Ms. Lauren Swanson**

Since this was Ms. Swanson's first GTSAC meeting, she provided an overview of her background and expressed her eagerness to get involved with the senior mobility action team.

- **Department of State (DOS) – Ms. Anne Corgan**

The reduction in traffic safety enforcement is being noticed by the department. Less enforcement activity has impacted the driver license monitoring process where they are seeing a steady decline in the number of drivers requiring reexamination.

The new High BAC .17 law takes effective October 31 and the department is ready to implement.

On December 31, the Point Reduction Program goes into effect. Under this program, if a person receiving a citation takes the Basic Driver Improvement Course, the violation and points applied are not posted for insurance companies to view. The information, however, is still accessible to courts and law enforcement. DOS is set to accept applications from companies that desire to provide the course.

The recently passed Retirement Incentive Bill could have a large impact on DOS staffing levels. The department intends to move aggressively to fill the critical positions. In addition to the retirements, DOS is preparing for transitioning to a new Secretary of State who will be determined with the election on November 2.

- **Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Mr. John Friend**

Complete Streets Legislation – The purpose of this legislation is to place some expectations on all governmental agencies as they approach infrastructure projects, typically in urban settings, to consider in the long-term, the multitude of users and how to accommodate them. MDOT believes this to be an opportunity to bring its safety message to a broader audience as they work with communities to design long-term infrastructure solutions for them.

The first step in the process is the establishment of a formal committee with the appointments being made by the Governor. The membership of the committee will be broad, consisting of many different interests and entities. MDOT intends to approach each assignment making sure safety is front and center.

Winter Operations – MDOT will soon begin airing its winter safety messages to educate the public to give snow plows appropriate consideration and to provide driving tips and techniques when encountering them on the roadway.

MDOT Funding Update – Mr. Friend reported that MDOT was able to meet the state-funding portion used to match federal funds for the 2011 infrastructure program.

- **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Mr. Michael Prince**

Distracted Driving Summit - On September 21, Mr. Prince attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Distracted Driving Summit in Washington DC called by USDOT Secretary LaHood. There was a lot of discussion about what the different states are doing to address texting and cell phone use.

GHSA National Meeting – Mr. Prince attended the Governor's Highway Safety Administration's (GHSA) National meeting September 24-27. Michigan won the bid to host the 2014 GHSA National meeting in Grand Rapids.

Labor Day Crackdown - More than 200 law enforcement agencies took part in the Labor Day crackdown which took place August 19 through Sept. 6 as part of the nationwide effort to reduce injuries and deaths caused by alcohol-related crashes. Officers made nearly 12,000 traffic stops and arrested 520 motorists for drunk driving.

Noted among the arrests was a driver in the Upper Peninsula's Chippewa County who recorded a blood alcohol content of .214, and a motorist in Detroit who struck a pole while driving drunk with five young children in the vehicle. The driver was arrested for drunk driving and child endangerment.

This year's Labor Day crackdown netted 84 drug-related arrests, 84 open intoxicants, 75 minor in possession, 290 seat belt and child seat, 1,777 speeding, and 3,521 other traffic violation citations.

At this point, records show that there were 15 crashes and 19 traffic fatalities in Michigan over the Labor Day holiday, three of which involved alcohol, according to the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center. In comparison, 16 people died in traffic crashes during the 2009 Labor Day holiday weekend, four of which involved alcohol.

High Blood Content Law - OHSP is planning a news event on Monday, October 25, to remind motorists that Michigan's new high BAC drunk driving law takes effect on Sunday, October 31. The news event will take place at the State Capitol in Room 424 beginning at 10:00 am.

The new law contains enhanced penalties for first-time drivers convicted of operating with a BAC of .17 or higher. Because the new law's effective date is Oct. 31, it also coincides with additional federally funded drunk driving patrols taking place by over 200 law enforcement agencies in 35 counties. The crackdown begins October 25 and runs through Halloween.

Among the enhanced penalties, convicted drivers could face up to 180 days in jail, which was increased from 93 days. Fines are increased \$200-\$700 up from \$100-\$500. A one-year license suspension is mandatory, but driving after 45 days is permissible if a driver has an alcohol-interlock device installed. Installation and monthly fees are the responsibility of the driver.

An ignition interlock requires a driver to blow into the device and prevents a vehicle from starting if it measures a BAC of .025 or above. In addition, the device requires periodic retests when driving longer periods. The device records the date and time of each test and any violation is reported to the Department of State.

Employer Outreach Texting Webinar - OHSP will be hosting a free one-hour Webinar on Texting and Driving on the Job on October 27 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. The Webinar will focus on the dangers of distracted driving and how employers can be liable for the distracted driving of their employees. The presenting speaker is Mr. Ken Stecker, the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecuting Attorney. Two additional Employer Outreach Webinars are being planned. One will be on ignition interlocks and the other on medical marijuana.

School Bus Information Packets - Beginning this fall, Michigan's school buses will be equipped with "Student Emergency Information" packets supplied through the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. Made of heavy plastic, the large, clear envelopes will provide drivers and emergency

responders a dedicated location to obtain important information about the special needs students on the bus. The packets will contain a seating chart, specific medical information on each student such as the type of disability, medication needs, special handling, and anything a first responder may need to know in the event of a crash or other emergency. The emergency medical information packets will be provided to all school districts in Michigan.

**GTSAC Awards** – Nominations are being accepted for the GTSAC 2010 Traffic Safety Awards. Nominations are due to OHSP on or before Monday, November 8. Mr. Prince encouraged everyone who knows of a person or organization that should be recognized for either a 2010 traffic safety project or for long-term achievement in traffic safety, to submit a nomination. The nomination form is available on the GTSAC Web site at [www.michigan.gov/ohsp-gtsac](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp-gtsac).

**Seat Belt Use Rate** - The results of the end of summer seat belt use survey show that Michigan's belt use rate went down. Although some of this decline can be attributed to the state's diminished level of enforcement officers, OHSP will be rededicating some of its resources back to the Occupant Protection Program to promote belt use.

#### **LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – Sgt. Chris Hawkins/MSP Handout Only**

In Sergeant Hawkins' absence, Mr. Morris presented an overview of current legislation relating to traffic safety issues. A copy of the prepared summary is available on the GTSAC Web site

#### **ACTION TEAM REPORTS**

The following Action Teams reported on their activities and accomplishments to date. Copies of the reports are available on the GTSAC Web site, or by contacting the OHSP office.

- Occupant Protection – Ms. Alicia Sledge, OHSP
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety – Ms. Lisa Grost, MDCH
- Senior Mobility – Ms. Kim Lariviere, MDOT
- Young Drivers – Ms. Dianne Perukel, OHSP

#### **ACTION ITEM**

- The proposed 2011 meeting schedule was presented to the Commissioners. It was noted that the April 22 date is Good Friday. It was suggested to deviate from the usual fourth Friday of the month and hold the meeting on the following Friday, April 29.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

- Flashing Yellow Arrow Signaling – Mr. Bob Felt, MDOT  
Mr. Felt reported on the new flashing yellow left-turn signal that is replacing the flashing red signal. The signals are being introduced nationwide and ultimately will be required at all intersections where there is a separate left-turn arrow signal. This change is the result of a national study conducted by the Federal Highway Administration, which demonstrated that the new signal helps prevent crashes, moves more traffic through an intersection, and provides more flexibility in traffic management.

To help motorists understand the new flashing yellow left-turn signal, MDOT produced an animated video that has been posted on MDOT's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/MichiganDOT](http://www.youtube.com/MichiganDOT) and is also accessible from MDOT's Web site.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:30 a.m.**

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**Next Meeting – December 10, 2010, at the Michigan State Police Training Academy**